

Gastric Empty Scan

PATIENT INFORMATION - What You Need to Know

DESCRIPTION OF EXAM

A gastric empty scan is a Nuclear Medicine imaging procedure that allows a Radiologist to assess the time it takes a meal to move through a person's stomach.

PREPARING FOR YOUR EXAM - What to do before your exam:

Patient must be NPO (no food or drink) 5 hours before exam. Patient cannot be allergic to eggs. Patient can take any medication that they need after they eat the radioactive breakfast (please bring medications with you to exam). Patient should not be pregnant. If patient is breastfeeding please notify technologist at the time of exam. Wear comfortable clothing and avoid wearing jewelry and metallic objects. Arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled exam time to allow for registration.

DURING THE EXAM

Patient will be asked to eat a radioactive breakfast that consists of radioactive egg beaters, white toast with strawberry jelly, and water. The breakfast will need to be consumed within 10 minutes. Then the patient will stand in front of camera for a 1 minute image of the abdomen. Patient then returns every hour, for the next 4 hours to take a 1 minute standing picture. Total test time is approximately 4.5 hours.

AFTER YOUR EXAM

There are no side effects from the radioactive tracer. The amount of radioactivity you receive is a very small amount and is not harmful to you or anyone else. If breastfeeding it is recommended to pump milk and discard for 6 hours after exam.